



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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**NEW JERSEY MAN CHARGED WITH \$1.1 MILLION IDENTITY THEFT AND
CREDIT CARD FRAUD SCHEME INVOLVING MORE THAN 1000 VICTIMS**

JAMES B. COMEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, WILLIAM KEEZER, the Inspector in Charge of the New York Division of the Postal Inspection Service, and STEVEN CAREY, Special Agent in Charge of the New York office of the Secret Service, announced that an Indictment was unsealed today charging JOEL JUSTE, a/k/a "Joel Juste Edmond," a/k/a "Steve," with conspiracy, wire fraud, access device fraud, computer fraud, and identification document fraud.

The 10-count Indictment accuses JUSTE and his co-conspirators of participating in a conspiracy to activate credit cards without authorization by obtaining personal information regarding the cardholders and then using the credit cards to buy merchandise. As part of the scheme, JUSTE and his co-conspirators allegedly intercepted credit cards that were being mailed to the respective users, and used computers to

access credit reporting agencies' databases to obtain credit history reports on the credit card account holders. JUSTE and his co-conspirators then are accused of using that information on the illegally-obtained credit reports to activate the stolen cards. Once the cards were activated, it is alleged that JUSTE

and his co-conspirators used the cards to make purchases, then sold those items for profit. During the course of the conspiracy, more than 1000 credit history reports were illegally obtained. JUSTE and his co-conspirators allegedly purchased goods amounting to more than \$1.1 million in unauthorized charges.

JUSTE, 27, is a resident of West Orange, New Jersey. If convicted, he faces a maximum sentence of 5 - 20 years in prison on each count charged in the Indictment. The Indictment also seeks forfeiture of a 2002 Mercedes owned by JUSTE that was allegedly purchased with the fruits of JUSTE's criminal activity.

JUSTE was arrested on Sunday, September 14, and is scheduled to be presented before United States Magistrate Judge FRANK MAAS later today.

Mr. COMEY praised the efforts of the United States Postal Inspection Service and the United States Secret Service in investigating this case.

Mr. COMEY said the investigation is continuing.

Assistant United States Attorney ANTHONY S. BARKOW is
in charge of the prosecution.

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